



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

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Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) NOW Available- Get Free Help at College Goal Alaska

(ANCHORAGE) –Financial aid experts will be volunteering at locations throughout Alaska to help college-bound students and their families open the door to financial aid during College Goal Alaska (CGA).

The free program assists Alaska students in filing the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is required for students to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships and student loans at most colleges and vocational/technical schools nationwide.

College Goal Alaska is important in helping families complete this form correctly and in time to meet deadlines set by colleges and training programs.

Rebekah Matrosova, Director of Outreach for the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) says changes this year will allow students to apply earlier and use income information from the previous year's tax return. *"With the FAFSA start date moving from January to October, students who are planning to start their postsecondary education in the 2017-18 school year should file as soon as possible to take advantage of any aid awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. In other good news, this year, families can use information from 2015 tax returns – returns they've already submitted. And, they can use the data retrieval tool to easily transfer IRS data."*

College Goal Alaska, which has been coordinated by the state's higher education agency, ACPE, and facilitated by volunteers from Alaska's postsecondary institutions, schools, and other organizations for the past 13 years, has helped thousands of Alaska students and families complete the FAFSA properly and on time. Most students should attend CGA with their parents, and bring their and their parents' social security number, driver's license or alien registration card, 2015 tax information, and 2015 untaxed income records. Students who are married, or at least 24 years old, do not need to provide parental information.

Prior to attending a CGA event, students can go to fsaid.ed.gov and apply for a Federal Student Aid ID. Students and their parents need an FSAID to electronically sign the FAFSA.

For CGA dates and times visit www.collegegoalak.org.

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